

APPENDIX J

Governor's Mansion and Flag**The Mansion**

At present, there is no official residence for the Governor. The most recent Governor's mansion was sold without ever being occupied by a Governor of the state.



First Mansion

First Mansion

The original mansion was a two-story, Italian style villa erected in 1871. However, when the Legislature failed to provide the funds necessary to complete it, Governor Newton Booth refused to move in. The building was later converted into quarters for the first State Printing Plant without ever having been occupied by a Governor of California. The site of this ill-fated mansion is now part of the Capitol Park.¹



Second Mansion

¹ *Government Code*, Section 8170.

Second Mansion

The second mansion was designed by Nathaniel D. Goodell and built in 1877–78 by U. M. Reese. Its original owner was Albert Gallatin, a prosperous Sacramento hardware merchant.

In 1877, the house was sold to Joseph Steffens, father of the noted journalist and newspaper correspondent, Lincoln Steffens.

The mansion was purchased by the state in 1903 for \$32,500 and housed 13 successive governors. It was first occupied by Governor George C. Pardee, and then in order by Governors James N. Gillett; Hiram W. Johnson; William D. Stephens; Friend William Richardson; C. C. Young; James Rolph, Jr.; Frank F. Merriam; Culbert L. Olson; Earl Warren; Goodwin J. Knight; Edmund G. Brown, Sr.; and Ronald Reagan.

The mansion, of Victorian Gothic lines, consists of three stories and an attic surmounted by a cupola, and contains 15 rooms and five bathrooms. The well-kept grounds are enclosed by an elaborate wrought-iron fence.

In 1941, the mansion was determined to be unsuitable for occupancy although five governors occupied it until Governor Reagan moved out during the first part of 1967.

The second Governor's Mansion is now operated and maintained by the State Department of Parks and Recreation and is open for public tours.

Unoccupied Mansion

In 1967, a citizens group raised \$200,000 and acquired property in Carmichael as a prospective site for a new Governor's Mansion. This property was conveyed to the state by grant deed in 1969. The following year, the Legislature designated the donated property as the site of the mansion.² In 1972, an appropriation provided \$150,000 for preliminary plans and working drawings.³

Subsequently, the Legislature provided additional funds (\$1.3 million) for the actual construction.⁴

Prior to the bids being opened, attempts were made to halt the construction of the mansion. Controversies arose over the question of whether or not to permit an archaeological dig on the site which was alleged to have been formerly occupied by an ancient Maidu Native American village and burial ground and over the adequacy of the "Environmental Impact Report" required by state law. The court ruled in favor of the defendants, i.e., the state,⁵ and the contract was awarded.

Finally, in 1975, the mansion was completed.

² *Government Code*, Section 8170.

³ *Statutes of 1972*, Chapter 156, Item 300.3.

⁴ *Statutes of 1973*, Chapter 129, Item 339.

⁵ *Friends of Carmichael v. State of California*, Superior Court for the County of Sacramento, Case No. 249677, August 19, 1974.



unoccupied mansion

In style, the proposed gubernatorial residence, with its tiled roof, resembles a Spanish hacienda and the architecture may best be described as "early California." The structure contains 12,000 square feet and consists of a family area including four bedrooms, a master bedroom, three baths, a recreation area and a study area. The remaining space is devoted to a library, living room, dining room, guest bedroom and bath, a kitchen, a pantry and two additional bedrooms.

Its completion did not signal the end of controversy. Edmund G. Brown, Jr., the incumbent governor at the time, chose not to take up residence for the remainder of his term, and further refinements on the site were suspended. At that point, the cost of maintaining an unoccupied mansion became the subject of much debate, which concluded with the decision to sell.

The mansion was on the verge of being sold when George Deukmejian became Governor in January 1983, but, because he indicated an interest in living in the facility, it was withdrawn from sale. However, later that year, the mansion was sold to a private citizen.

The Flag

In 1957, the Legislature adopted a flag to be used by the Governor at official state occasions.⁶

In its center is a representation similar to the Great Seal of the State of California. A close comparison of the two shows considerable deviation. A cornucopia rests next to the grizzly at the Goddess' feet and the sun is shown setting in the Pacific; neither of these symbols are part of the Great Seal. In addition, the topography in the background is considerably altered and the miner's "rocker" and some of the ships in the harbor are missing.

The general design and details of the flag, excluding colors, shall be as follows:

⁶ *Government Code*, Section 428, 429.

